

September 1, 2011

Dear Residents,

All throughout the East coast flooding from Hurricane Irene has caused widespread damage. As expected, Westwood was not spared from the effects of this natural disaster.

Yesterday President Obama signed a disaster declaration for several regions in New Jersey including Bergen County. This now allows FEMA funding and assistance to be obtained by our residents and business owners. This can include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured or underinsured property losses, and other programs to help individuals and business owners recover.

Residents and businesses should register as soon as possible at the following website:

[www.DisasterAssistance.gov](http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov)

or by calling:

1-800-621-FEMA

8 AM and 10 PM Monday through Sunday.

This past Monday, Congressman Scott Garrett toured Westwood to see first hand the devastating losses that were realized in several of our neighborhoods throughout the town. He pledged that he would do everything in his power to see that New Jersey would receive sufficient funding to help our residents. Please contact his Glen Rock office at (201) 444-5454 to urge him to continue to work with his fellow members in the House of Representatives to release funding in an expedited manner.

Locally, Westwood residents continue to pull together to help our neighbors in need. Many homes were devastated by the flood waters of Hurricane Irene and many families were displaced due to the damage to their properties. The Borough operates a food pantry for residents in need of assistance. At this time that need is growing due to the Hurricane. Please consider making donations to our pantry operated by the Social Services Dept. Cleaning items are in particular demand as are school supplies to help aid the families of school age children who were affected. Any help you can give would be greatly appreciated. Please call our Social Services Director, Kathy Elgert, at (201) 664-7100 x 110 for more information about our assistance program.

Please know that the Borough will be doing everything we can to ease the burden on property owners and residents affected by the flooding. Dumpsters have been placed throughout the affected neighborhoods, and will continue to be provided to help with the removal of items damaged in the flooding.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please call our Borough offices at (201) 664-7100.

Sincerely,  
Borough of Westwood

John Birkner, Jr. - Mayor